

**Last modifications of the manuscript (egusphere-2025-2839) in response to
Reviewer 1 and to the preceding review file validation**

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We thank Reviewer 1 for reading our revised manuscript and for making, again, thoughtful and constructive comments on our manuscript.

In response to the first comment (the word 'demonstrate' is too strong), in the Abstract we changed the sentence:

"Analytical calculations and statistical simulations demonstrate that the two exponentials result from objects merging, respectively representing the populations of merged- and unmerged-object chords" in:

"Analytical calculations and statistical simulations show that the merging of objects is sufficient to explain the two exponentials, representing, respectively, the populations of merged- and unmerged-object chords." And in the conclusion, we changed 'demonstrate' in 'showing'.

Regarding the second point (rather use $D1/D_{tot}$ and $D2/D_{tot}$ than $p1$ and $p2$): We did not change the figures because we thought all the fit parameters (including $p1$ or $p2$) should be indicated on the figures, and adding $D1$ and $D2$ would make the figures too busy.

Moreover, we addressed all comments from the preceding review file validation.

We thank again the Editor for ensuring such an efficient and effective review process.